



Vice President for External Relations
and Resource Development
Division of Marketing & Media

At a Glance

LATEST NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF HAIFA



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1

Prof. David Faraggi, Rector of the University, and Prof. Edi Barkai, Dean of the Faculty of Natural Sciences, visited the Medical University of Sofia in Bulgaria to sign an agreement under which students from the Department of Medical Sciences at the University of Haifa will be able to continue their medical studies at the University of Sofia and complete their degree in medicine after 4 years.



2

Hundreds of researchers, practitioners and professionals from all Israeli universities attended a conference organized by the Berman Center for Psychological Counseling and Career Guidance at the Office of the Dean of Students. For the first time the subject of the emotional problems of young students was discussed. The seminar also explored the relationship between learning disabilities and achievements, the difficulties 'Generation Y' has deciding on what to do after school, and presented for the first time data on the extent of psychological support at universities. "It is our obligation to our students and to society in general to provide as much assistance as possible to every student who needs help," said University President Amos Shapira.



3

A research workshop held in cooperation with the Caesarea Edmond Benjamin de Rothschild Foundation Institute for Interdisciplinary Applications of Computer Science and Dr Ayelet Ben-Sasson, of the Department of Occupational Therapy, organized the workshop on the innovative use of technology to support decision making in health. The event attracted many researchers from various fields, including occupational therapy, computer science, and systems information from both industry and academia. Lectures covered a variety of topics from quality of life to physiology, which all related to the use of computing to build intelligent systems to support decision making and benefit customers of health services. Guest speaker at the workshop was Dr. Rosa Arriaga, a developmental psychologist from the Georgia Institute of Technology who spoke about her work developing technological tools for managing the treatment of chronic conditions such as asthma and autism.



4

The Younes and Soraya Nazarian Library has donated several hundred volumes of writings – journals and surplus library books – to Xiamen University in the province of Fujian in southern China. The donation was made as part of the library's collaboration with academic libraries in Asia in the *Books for China Project* which aims to make up the shortage of academic publications held at the Academy of Western China due to the prohibition of importing foreign publications into China from 1949 for many decades.



5

The Jewish National Fund recently held an event in France to showcase the work of a range of Israeli institutions. The event, held in cooperation with various government agencies, was designed to support the State of Israel. The University of Haifa Friends Association in France, represented by Dr. Joseph Chvika, presented the extensive activities of the University.



6

A new study conducted in partnership with the University has found that pain sensitivity can be predicted by the amount of gray matter in certain areas of the brain. The study is collaboration with researchers from the Technion, the Rambam Medical Center and the University of Wake Forest Winston-Salem, NC. It was funded in part by the prestigious USA-Israel Binational Science Foundation (BSF). "We found an anatomical marker located in brain structure which allows us to identify people with higher sensitivity to pain," commented Dr. Irit Waisman-Fogel, one of the researchers at the Department of Physiotherapy.



7

A secret has been revealed. A new study conducted at the University by [Dr. Jonathan Ben-Dov](#) of the Department of Biblical Studies, in cooperation with the *Ecole Pratique des Hautes Etudes* (Institute for Practical Advanced Studies) in Paris has used new technology to read ancient texts. It has offered a new reading of one of the Qumran Dead Sea Scrolls. This interpretation changes the accepted chronology of some of the scrolls and sheds light on the beginnings of writing commentary on the Bible. The discovery was widely " was widely reported in Israeli newspaper Maariv-NRG.



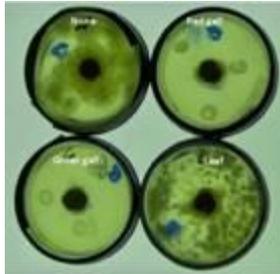
8

What are young Iranians interested in? Is it Israel's nuclear weapons? The IDF? Or the Mossad? No. Young Iranians are actually interested in the beach culture in Israel, according to the website "Tehran-Haifa-Tel Aviv" run by The [Ezri Center for Iran and Persian Gulf Studies](#). "Politics tend to interest politicians. People are mainly interested in their day to day lives, and for young Iranians that means beach culture" said Yoni Shadmi, editor of the website and researcher at the Center.



9

What exactly are plant galls? For the uninitiated, they are abnormal growths on the surface of life forms such as plant tissue. [Dr Yoram Gerchman](#) from the Department of Environmental Biology at Oranim, and [Prof. Moshe Inbar](#), of the Department of Evolutionary and Environmental Biology have been studying plant galls. They have found that at least one of these species of plant galls contains anti-microbial – or antibiotic - material. This has obvious significance for pharmaceuticals.



10

Israel Radio devoted a program to a unique event to be held at the University in March 'Days of Jewish Music at the University of Haifa'. Prof. Yuval Shaked, head of the Department of Music, was heard on radio playing a selection of music for organ, cantor and choir in Ladino, Yiddish and more. The choice of music is rich and fascinating. [Listen here to the music](#)

